

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10

EB-11 OIC-04 RSR-01 /173 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1521

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, ECE

SUBJECT: UN BUDGET: ECE

REF: STATE 171220

1. MISSION IS BETWEEN ECE OFFICERS; CHARGE IS ONLY OFFICER MUCH ACQUAINTED WITH ECE AND HE DOES NOT FEEL CAPABLE OF COMMENTING ON BUDGET PROPOSALS IN MUCH DETAIL. HENCE OUR COMMENTS WILL BE LARGELY CONFINED TO OVERVIEW. WE ASSUME ROBERT BLUCKER OF IO, WHO WE BELIEVE IS BETTER ACQUAINTED WITH DETAILS OF PROGRAM THAN ANYONE NOW AT MISSION, IS BEING CONSULTED. WE ALSO SUGGEST REVIEW OF USDEL REPORT ON 28TH PLENARY, GENEVA A-309, PAGES 4-6 AND 17-18 AND ANNEX 5, WHICH SET FORTH STILL VALID US VIEWS.

2. PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS WHICH NEED BE CONSIDERED ARE (A) INCREASED COSTS DUE TO EXCHANGE RATE ADJUSTMENTS AND INFLATION AND (B) ANTICIPATED ASSIGNMENT TO ECE OF ECONOMIC TASKS AS FOLLOW-ON TO CESC.

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A. ACCORDING TO SECRETARIAT LESS THAN 3 PERCENT OF

PROPOSED 25.9 PERCENT INCREASE IN 1974 IS PROGRAM INCREASE; REMAINDER IS SO-CALLED UNAVOIDABLE INCREASES. WE CANNOT ASSESS THESE LATTER INCREASES IN DETAIL. HOWEVER, THEY ARE AT LEAST FOR MOST PART REAL. QUESTION IS PRIMARILY TO WHAT EXTENT THEY CAN BE ABSORBED. IN MY VIEW, COMMISSION IS LARGELY MARKING TIME WITH RESPECT TO MANY OF ITS MOST SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL OBJECTIVES TO AWAIT DEVELOPMENTS ELSEWHERE (MAINLY CSCE). IT CARRIES ON A GREAT MANY RATHER ROUTINE ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE USEFUL BUT NOT REALLY NECESSARY TO US OR TO EUROPE. IN MY VIEW SOME OF THESE CERTAINLY COULD BE REDUCED IN ORDER TO ABSORB COST INCREASES. ONE NOTABLE CANDIDATE IS "LONG-TERM PROJECTIONS" AND SPECIFICALLY "DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, PROJECTIONS AND POLICIES". WE ALSO AGREE WITH UK THAT STATISTICS ACTIVITIES COULD BE CUT.

B. WHILE COMMISSION MAY ACQUIRE IMPORTANT TASKS AS RESULT OF CSCE, WE DO NOT THINK ANY BUDGETARY PROVISION SHOULD BE MADE OR THAT THIS PROBABILITY NEED RESTRAIN ANY BUDGET PARING EFFORTS; ANY SUCH EFFORTS ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE SO SUCCESSFUL THAT THERE WILL NOT STILL BE ROOM LEFT TO SUBSTITUTE NEW PRIORITY TASKS FOR PRESENT ACTIVITIES WHICH DO NOT REALLY DESERVE PRIORITY.

3. THERE IS SOME RISK IN COURSE IMPLIED IN 2A ABOVE THAT BUDGET STRINGENCIES WILL IN FACT AFFECT ACTIVITIES IN WHICH US IS INTERESTED, SUCH AS ENVIRONMENT, BUT WE THINK THIS IS A RISK WORTH TAKING.

4. WHILE WE CANNOT NOW APPLY ABOVE GENERAL VIEWS IN DETAIL (EXCEPT RE GENERAL PROJECTIONS WORK AS INDICATED ABOVE), THEY CERTAINLY ARE CONSISTENT WITH ACABQ RECOMMENDATIONS PARA 2C REFTEL. WE ONLY SUGGEST CUTS MIGHT GO FURTHER.

5. MISSION COMMENTING ON UNCTAD BUDGET SEPTTEL.MILLER

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